

Are we safe at BC?

How students, faculty, and parents feel about COVID-19 safety on campus

By Aia Andonovska
Copy Editor

After Brevard College confirmed their first case of the novel virus COVID-19 on campus last week, some students have been left with many unanswered questions for the school. The Clarion felt the need to reach out to students, faculty and parents for their thoughts on how they feel about being on campus right now. The names of the faculty, students, and parents will remain anonymous for their privacy.

Two faculty members shared their opinion with the Clarion. One such source said that they were “pretty firmly against coming back in person,” and that they “assumed we would shut down quickly,” but that they were rather impressed with students wearing their masks indoors and that they have noticed other students gently reminding others to step back six feet and pull their masks up. Another faculty member stated, “We’re better than most big universities, but there’s only so much we can do. Brevard has made a valiant effort, but online is probably safer.”

One student shared their thoughts as well. “I feel like Brevard College should be taking more steps to prioritize our safety. I have seen so many students walking around without their mask on. There are so many people who aren’t taking this seriously and it’s people like that who are putting everyone in danger. I wish there was an online option for those who had anxiety or felt discomfort about returning back to physical class. I’m so frustrated with the situation.”

Another student added, “I think they should have given us an option. We could have easily done online at home, come to school and done online, or done hybrid which is online for 2 or 3 days and then in person for the rest of the week. We would’ve been just fine with that, and best of all we would’ve had a choice. Face to face should be interesting enough, but I definitely want to go home.”

A student, with underlying health issues, was left feeling alone and in the dark after the school refused to accommodate them. “I feel like it’s ALL about the money for the school. They care more about our money than they do the students. I can barely afford to pay to be here and financial aid IGNORED my emails until I said I came up with the first month’s pay. Also I heard about the first outbreak and I asked to be excused from class the next day because I’m at high risk for the virus and I was told it was against policy and I had to show up.” the student said. This is incredibly concerning, considering this particular student’s health is even more so on the line than those who are not at high risk.

Others had some suggestions for the school. “I do think we should be all online for lecture based classes. Since a lot of classes here are lecture based, it would make sense to have the lecture online. Here’s a solution. Have students who live off campus attend most lectures online. This will reduce the amount of exposure from students going from class to class and touching desks, chairs, etc. Students who do not have purely lecture based classes, such as WLEE, theater, and music should be able to meet in person. There aren’t a lot of classes like those on campus that expect their students to be practicing/experiencing things other than these three degrees. By only having these three departments meet regularly on campus, that decreases the chance of exposure to students.”

“I feel as if this COVID process wasn’t thoroughly thought through as far as classes and cases,” said yet another student, “They want money and are going to get it by any means necessary. I personally feel that we should’ve done online from our rooms and figured everything else out. They honestly don’t care about us like they claim.”

On the other hand, one such source said that they prefer in person class because they learn better that way. If we went online they stated they would probably take a gap year.

Coming from quarantine on our very own campus, another student stated, “This school was not prepared on how to handle a COVID case on campus. Students were put in quarantine for following the CDC guidelines and then were continuously told different stories from administrators. We were told we did not have to quarantine, then told to quarantine for 10 days, and now it is 14 days following guidelines. We have not gotten any calls from the health department since we have been placed in quarantine. We should not have come back to this campus if the school did not have our health in mind. Cases are rising every day and I don’t believe the school is prepared for an outbreak on this campus.”

Some were questioning why they are still being charged for their meal plans while they’re not eating in the cafeteria by choice to limit the exposure risk of the virus. “I don’t really eat in the cafeteria, so I tried to get rid of my meal plan which I was told couldn’t be done. I feel as though it’s pointless for me to pay for something that I don’t use! If I did use my meal plan it would be for Coltrane only!”

A source also questioned why they are being charged for the \$925 general fee along with the meal plan. They stated, “It’s not fair that we can’t remove our meal plan. I waited 20 minutes just to eat breakfast in the cafeteria and the food isn’t even seasoned. I want to know why we’re paying for this when we’re not getting the full college experience. I believe this \$925 fee should be waived.” The source also said, “It’s a shame that campus life only responds to certain emails especially when it has to do with COVID-19. I

‘We’re better than most big universities, but there’s only so much we can do. Brevard has made a valiant effort, but online is probably safer.’

WCU deals with students' racist videos

By Caroline Hoy
Staff Writer

On August 22, 2020 Western Carolina University (WCU), located in Cullowhee, North Carolina, discovered a viral video posted by its students that has since been deemed racist. Three females and two males were expelled after the racist videos were discovered.

According to CNN News, the three female students posted a video saying, "If I am a cracker, you're allowed to be called "n***er"... with the A ... not the ER."

The two male students were seen in a video using the "OK" hand gesture, which has been associated with white supremacy, and saying they were not racist. They also used "n***er" multiple times throughout the video.

The videos circulated on the social media apps Snapchat and Twitter before getting back to WCU. The videos have since been removed from both social media apps and the school has not released the names of those in the video.

In a video released by WCU, Chancellor Kelli Brown said, "These last 24 hours have been a roller coaster of emotions for me and many others on this campus. Over the weekend there have been several videos of students, Western Carolina University students that are displaying behavior that is racist and bigoted. This behavior disappoints, angers, frustrated me to no end," she said. The school has made no further comments on the subject besides the released video.

According to an interview done by the Asheville Citizen Times, this is not an isolated incident. Ashani Smith, a senior at WCU, told the Citizen Times in an interview that herself and other black students have heard similar words before, but they were not as public as what happened recently.

To some people, it is a shock that in 2020 these words are still used. With the Black Lives Matter protests still happening it is a shock that this is still openly ignored some times.

COVID-19 creates problems

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still have not received an email back or my parents. In addition, I feel that we should have the option to do online as I do not feel safe going to class because some professors don't make students wear their masks. We are not getting our money's worth."

Concerning issues with food, a parent of a student in quarantine complained that when their child was placed in quarantine, they tried to order food from the cafeteria. They were told that they had to give 48 hours notice, despite just being placed in quarantine. They had to use a delivery service outside of the school the first couple days in quarantine in order to make sure they were fed. The selection wasn't very wide and provided absolutely no fruits or vegetables. The parent later informed the Clarion that the food options went down to only one option as of Aug. 29. This is particularly concerning because different students may have food allergies or restrictions. No fruits or vegetables will not help anyone heal from a sickness either.

This parent stated that before everyone came back to school they watched the Facebook live that the school hosted and they had no issues sending their kid back to Brevard College. That quickly changed once their child was quarantined after not even being exposed. The student was told once their test returned negative they would be released. It took a week for this student to get their results back before they were finally allowed to leave quarantine. The parent also told the Clarion that they had been trying to get in contact with the Dean of Students repeatedly and that they have received no reply. This is, again, concerning, when students and parents are left with unanswered questions in regards to their own lives and health. "EVERYBODY SHOULD HAVE BEEN TESTED BEFORE THEY CAME BACK TO SCHOOL. Write that down in all caps," the parent said.

The simple fact of the matter is that every student has different needs that must be accommodated. It seems to be that a lot of Brevard students felt like they should've been given an option as to what worked best for them and their families as well. Hopefully these students get some answers, and hopefully they all get them soon.

THE CLARION

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All correspondence should be mailed to:
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An overhead shot of WCU's Ramsey Center.

Hurricane Laura rips through the South

A devastating hurricane ripped through the Gulf of Mexico over on Aug. 27, 2020, causing widespread damage to homes and businesses due to high winds. Hurricane Laura, a Category 4 storm, traveled through parts of Louisiana and Texas and in its path, killed at least four from toppling trees and at least 18 overall.

After lowering to a tropical storm over the state of Arkansas, it was placed under a state of emergency after terrible winds and flooding struck the area. The storm knocked over many power lines, causing residential communities to be stuck without power.

Entergy, the New Orleans based energy company, stated that there would be widespread outages and delays among their customers. “We expect the recovery to be as difficult and challenging as we have ever faced in the past. Customers should expect extended power outages lasting weeks,” Phillip May, president and CEO of Entergy Louisiana, said in an online statement.

Winds of up to 150 miles per hour caused mass destruction to the city of Lake Charles, Louisiana. According to FOX Business, around 53,000 people in that area have applied for Federal Emergency Management Agency assistance.

Damage is continuing to be assessed by officials in each state. Widespread cleanup and attention will be given to the affected areas destroyed by the storm.

— Margaret Correll



Photo from CNN.com

An aerial view of damage done by the Category 4 hurricane Laura.

BC welcomes comedian Azeem Muhammad, performs at Myers Dining Hall (and on Zoom)

On Aug. 26, 2020 comedian Azeem Muhammad visited Brevard College to perform a stand-up show in front of Myers Dining Hall; it was also offered to watch through Zoom. Azeem is not unfamiliar with the Brevard community, he has been invited back several times by CAB to share his acts with the students.

Campus Activities Board (CAB) President,

junior Aaron Butts, or AB as many know him, gave his opinion on the performance. “Azeem is hilarious on all cylinders!” he stated, “He never misses a joke and we love having him here.” AB also noted, “We try to bring him back as much as possible.”

AB stated that if students are interested in

getting more events like Muhammad around campus they can contact him or Kristian Michels, CAB Vice President via email. The next big CAB event is a spikeball tournament in the Jones Residential Quad on Saturday, Sept. 5. The start time is to be determined.

— Kym Caldwell

BC Radar is a huge hit for the freshman class

By Eleanor Flannery
Opinion Editor

Brevard College introduced a student and faculty friendly app in the Fall of 2019 to provide information and FAQs more efficiently, cut down on emails, and provide the college with a fun platform in which to communicate. It was not met with much enthusiasm from students, who seldom used the application anyway, only having it downloaded because it was necessary as part of check-in for coming back on campus after summer break. Now BC's class of 2024 has really taken a liking to the app.

Students are not shy when it comes to engaging with one another, and even go as far to notify other students that their laundry

has finished its cycle in their resident hall. Of course, faculty also has access to these conversations, and must get a kick out of reading some of the discussions posted to the general Q & A section of the app. Students often post memes and other satirical related content to the discussion, which is all for laughs, but some students, predominantly upperclassmen, are over the jokes.

A lot of replies on the comment section of discussions highlight many students' frustrations with people overusing the application for non-essential posts. With so many students regularly posting comments and starting discussions, it can be hard to rake through what is important and what is just for fun. Not to mention that students get constant

notifications from BC Radar when posts are made or when likes are given, unless the user opted to switch off their notifications.

Recently, there was a back-and-forth on the general discussion tab that started out light-hearted and as a joke, but soon turned political, and many crude comments were made. It wasn't long before the posts were removed, and a statement was put out by a moderator restating what the expectations were for users on the app. This served as a reminder that everyone at the college has access to the content shared on the platform.

Despite the rough patch with BC Radar, the app is an overall hit and the newest source of entertainment on campus. In the midst of a pandemic with many social functions turning online, perhaps it's just what students needed.

ARTS & LIFE

Tik Tok sues Trump administration

By Kym Caldwell
Arts & Life Editor

After recent talks of the Trump Administration banning the popular social media app TikTok, many people were enraged and disappointed. The company TikTok retaliated and stated that they will be suing the Trump Administration over the executive order. They have stated that their team has taken the past year to try hard to fix any privacy concerns people may have.

The Trump Administration has ignored the efforts of the app to dispute the claims. TikTok believes that they have experienced a lack of due process, or that their Fifth Amendment rights have been infringed upon, when dealing with the Trump Administration and that is why they have chosen to go as far as suing.

Trump has given the company an ultimatum, they can keep the app if it is sold to another parent company. He told them they had until mid-September but then moved that date to November twelfth. In efforts to keep the app around, Microsoft has gotten into contact with the parent company, ByteDance, to buy TikTok's service in the USA.

The risk of many employees losing their livelihood has come into conversation as well.

An employee, Patrick Ryan, who is a US based program manager has also sued the Trump Administration. He has done so to request from a judge that TikTok employees continue to be paid. Recently Trump stated that it will be made illegal for any business transaction between an entity and TikTok to be made. "That means that after Sept. 20, myself and 1,500 of my colleagues won't be able to receive a paycheck, because it will be illegal for the company to pay us. This is a step too far," said Ryan.

This all happens after Trump had expressed

his concern that the app has been misusing the data it collects and sharing it with China. TikTok has rebuked all that Trump has claimed by insisting that all of the information collected stays in the United States. The lawsuit plans to bring up evidence that Trump's Administration cannot backup the claims that TikTok is a national security threat, but simply a political move which will give a reason for his backers to fuel his anti-China rhetoric and vote him back into the office.



Photo from CNN.com

Tik Tok plans on retaliating against the Trump administration over the executive order banning the app.

Trash in the can or be banned

By Eli Goodhew
Staff Writer

Brevard College's community and campus strives for sustainability. The school strives to keep the campus clean and maintain its beautiful surroundings. This is hard to do when there are students who place trash where it does not belong.

Examples of littering can be seen all around campus, especially in the creek and outside of residential buildings. I find it disgusting when I have to see trash spread upon our campus. We have designated spots for trash for a reason and there are other residents besides you. You may be okay with treating our campus like a dump, but others are not.

I myself have witnessed many people littering throughout my years at this college. I personally have also stepped on the glass that somebody did not clean up. We are taking advantage of our home. A home that we want to keep clean and free of garbage. This should be common sense, pick up after yourself or if you see something that is not where it should be, do your part and throw it away. If you find this impossible I suggest checking your attitude and privilege.

BC residential student, Kristian Michels commented "Littering, where do I start? Not only is it impactful to our earth, but it's also illegal! It only takes a few seconds to make a difference! Pick up your trash," he said. By making these differences you're being a part of bettering the community. Our community. Our home. We live in such a beautiful environment why not take better care of it.

Another student Croft Hamilton added, "Y'all need to respect the environment around us, and take that extra couple minutes of your life and throw away your trash properly. It is not a difficult task, grow up," he said. Hearing from other students that they are acknowledging this problem is very beneficial for the community. If we all start to recognize a little bit more we can make a major difference on our campus. I am sick and tired of it and you should be too.



Courtesy of Eli Goodhew

Pieces of litter found on Brevard's campus.

BC Athletics encourages student-athletes to register to vote

By Margaret Correll
Editor in Chief

Brevard College Athletics is sponsoring an initiative to get all student athletes registered to vote. An announcement by Stephanie Johnson, BC's Assistant Athletic Director, on Monday, Aug. 24, 2020, detailed a department wide competition to get BC student athletes educated and ready to vote in November.

"This is an election year," said Johnson when asked about the reasoning behind this idea, "for some people it is a big one and for others it's just another voting year." Johnson said she got the voter registration idea from Beth Abrams, Director of Community Engagement

and Leadership at Brevard College and Coppin State University, her alma mater, which posted about their volleyball program registering to vote.

"I shared a picture on Facebook which said the volleyball team was registered to vote and Myranda came to me and said 'Why aren't our teams doing this?'" said Johnson. Myranda Nash, BC's Athletic Director and Johnson decided to apply this to Brevard College and make it a competition. "There is no prize as of yet," said Johnson, "but it is a great way to motivate student athletes and get them registered."

Johnson made it clear that BC Athletics is

not trying to push any particular views when it comes to voting. "We are just trying to educate students on the importance of voting," said Johnson.

Johnson believes that this is a very important issue for BC Athletics. Due to the current number of students at BC that have never voted before, she believes that this is something that will get Brevard involved.

"This is your time to make a change," said Johnson, "and sometimes it may feel like it didn't make a difference but at least you voted."

On Sept. 21, 2020 BC Athletics is sponsoring a "Get Out and Vote Week". This week will be filled with voter education and how to register.

Bowl champions awarded with socially distanced ring ceremony

By Joseph Marvin
Assistant Sports Information Director

BREVARD, N.C. - The Brevard College Department of Athletics held a socially-distanced ring ceremony earlier this week where the 2019 ECAC Scotty Whitelaw Bowl champion BC Football team, the BC Cheerleading team, coaches, and administration received their championship rings inside of the Frances Pavilion at the Porter Center.

The special ceremony celebrated the 2019 Brevard College Football team who, in its first-ever postseason appearance, defeated Carnegie Mellon University, 42-28, on November 23, 2019, in Pittsburgh, culminating the most successful season for the BC Football program in the NCAA-era. The Tornados broke numerous school records en route to its first postseason berth in program history.

The 2020 season officially gets underway for BC, with Fall practice slated to begin on September 30 in preparation for its competition season in the Spring.

To follow the latest news and updates surrounding Brevard College Athletics, follow the Tornados on Twitter and Instagram @bctornados, subscribe to 'Brevard College Tornados' on YouTube, follow 'Brevard College Tornados' on SoundCloud, or like Brevard College Athletics on Facebook. Be sure to follow "brevardcollege" on Flickr for the latest photos from all Brevard College events.



The 2019 ECAC Scotty Whitelaw Bowl Most Valuable Player Steffon Canady poses with his BC ring.